

Summer Residents Association

Summer 2015

A Publication of the Summer Residents of the Town Mount Desert

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Summer Residents Association Members,

It has been a long winter in New England this year and spring is slow to arrive. Before you know it, we will all be enjoying our summer activities on beautiful Mt. Desert Island.

Several people have contributed articles to this newsletter. These articles will inform our members as to the projects, present and future so we may have insight on what is happening around town.

The Annual Mt. Desert Town Meeting was held May 5, 2015.

Each year a town audit is prepared by a firm in Ellsworth in time for the Annual Town Meeting in May. The charter requires the report to be available at least ten days prior to the annual meeting. After the meeting had begun, and several articles were voted on, it then became apparent the audit was not available. Without the audit there are no financial figures to work with and the Annual Town Meeting was postponed until June 9th.

Sam Shaw has purchased Dan Kimball's property on Main Street. The property location is opposite Sam's Store and is the site where the white tent has been for several years.

Sam is planning a complex to be called the "Marketplace". The Marketplace will consist of four buildings to be clustered around a courtyard with an outdoor seating area. Included in the four buildings, will be a take out lunch spot in the front of the lot. There will be a nail and hair salon, a wine and book store and a women's "chic" accessory shop. The fourth building is to be constructed at a later date and will consist of a year round restaurant plus four residential apartments.

Sam has been an invaluable supporter of the revitalization efforts in Northeast Harbor and so the Economic Development Steering Committee applauds him and wishes him well in his new venture.

Watermark Restaurant will not be operating this summer. The Watermark management and the landlord of the Kimball Terrace were unable to reach an amicable agreement.

Acadia Corporation, the company long known for operating the Jordon Pond House, has signed an agreement with owners of the Asticou Inn to operate the Inn's lodging, restaurant and other functions. Meals will be open to the public as well as hotel guests. Asticou, well known for its expansive porch and views of the harbor, will now be serving Jordon Pond House style popovers.

I want to thank the Board of Directors of the SRA for their loyal support and their contributions of time to this organization. I also want to give thanks to the Economic Development

SRA Board of Directors

Kathe Gates McCoy, President
Donald Graves, Vice President
Charlie Merriman, Treasurer
Phillip Moriarty, Secretary
Jan Russell, Nominating
Matthew Baird
John Boyton
Larry Golfarb
Lynn Janney
Howard Lapsley
Lili Pew
Bill Roberts
Kent Schmidt
Rick Wheeler
Averel Wilson

Contact:
The Summer Residents Association
of the Town of Mount Desert
PO Box 790
Mount Desert Me 04660

SRA Mission Statement

The mission of the Summer Residents Association of the Town of Mount Desert is to provide an effective means of communication between the summer residents and the Town leadership on issues that concern the current and future well-being of the Town. The Steering committee (Board of Directors) seeks to represent and to keep them informed of, and involved in, the Town planning process on current and future issues.

The Summer Residents Association seeks to be the timely and constructive voice of the summer residents with Town government working closely with Town leaders to preserve and protect the unique character, culture, environment and quality of life in the Town of Mount Desert.

Steering Committee (EDSC), consisting of summer and winter residents. The committee continues to implement the recommendations of the Urban Land Institute while keeping the channels of communication open among all the villages of Mt. Desert. Members of the EDSC are Durlin Lunt, Martha Dudman, Matt Hart, Nancy Kimball Ho, Rick Wheeler, myself along

Notes from the President continued

with Jackie Hewett. Please contact anyone of us if you have questions or comments. I encourage you to become more involved!

Speaking for the Summer Residents Association, I would like to thank the Neighborhood House for all their wonderful work in the community.

Their mission as a center for year round and summer residents, they are dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the community values and spirit of the town constantly evolving to meet the needs for the Town Of Mount Desert.

I am personally gratified in helping to revitalize the Town of Mount Desert. The efforts of numerous summer and winter residents communicating

openly and working together have already achieved multiple tangible results. Perhaps most importantly, the community is now building a sense of positive momentum.

Thank you for your continuing support of the SRA. I look forward to seeing you over the summer,

Kathe Gates McCoy
President

TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT

2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Progress to Date Plans for the Future

Past Goals (2013 -2014):

- Support village businesses by bringing more visitors to town and providing strategies for improved business performance.
- Improve community marketing efforts
- Secure funding and support from outside sources to assist existing businesses and attract new ones.
- Capitalize on the Marina to attract visitors.
- Create community events that engage residents, improve the town's sense of community and create opportunities for attracting additional tourism based spending.
- Attract new business.

Achievements (2013-2014):

- Raised \$40,000 from businesses and other private sources to design and install visitor information signage in the village of Northeast Harbor.
- Raised \$8,000 from private sponsors to help the town purchase outdoor movie equipment and established a summer outdoor movie program.

-Established an Oli's Trolley tour to the villages of Northeast Harbor and Seal Harbor that operated from May 15th through September 30th.

-Created the Town of Mount Desert Event Committee; a new standing committee of the Town.

-Created and published a Town of Mount Desert event rack card that was distributed across the island. In addition, town events were listed on several chamber websites and on other non-profit event listing sites.

-Secured a summer visit to Northeast Harbor by the Tall Ship Lynx

-Raised \$1,800 from private sponsors to help the town create and host the first annual Town of Mount Desert Antique Car Show.

-Organized an Internet marketing seminar for town business owners.

-Established partnerships with other non-profit organizations to support town sponsored events and help market the community.

-Secured a town ordinance amendment that permitted the use of temporary signs for events and allowed placement of the visitor information signs.

-Created opportunities for the exposure of local vendors at town sponsored events and the chance to expand their business.

-Advised the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce and Northeast Harbor's Main Street Merchants Organization on marketing and other strategies.

-Six new businesses opened in the village of Northeast Harbor in 2014. In addition, two additional businesses will open along Main Street this summer and a major new development is scheduled to break ground along Main Street this spring.

-The Town of Mount Desert's 2014 quarterly tax receipts increased 6.13% in the second quarter and 7.14% in the third quarter when compared to 2013's receipts.

-Secured matching funds for the town's 2015 economic development program from the Summer Residents Association.

Goals for 2015:

- Bring fiber optic broadband capability to the Town of Mount Desert.
- Continue to improve marketing for the Town of Mount Desert including

Economic Development continued

creation of a town brochure for distribution in all major tourism information locations.

-Change zoning and other ordinances to allow mobile food vendors to operate in shoreland commercial districts in the Town of Mount Desert.

-Work with state and regional tourism departments to piggyback on their efforts to bring visitors to our region.

-Establish a Town of Mount Desert Facebook page to increase the town's online presence and generate a venue for the distribution of information about town events and activities.

-Create a downtown development plan for Northeast Harbor that focuses on the infrastructure, circulation, green space and façade needs of Main Street.

-Generate new events for the community and support activities begun last year.

123 MAIN STREET SLOW BUT SURE

As many are all too aware, the winter weather in NEH posed significant challenges for construction projects. Nonetheless, construction continued at 123 Main Street and owners John and Johanna Boynton are moving mountains to have it open in early July. The new building - a replica of the original building - will house an ice cream and coffee shop on the first floor and shared offices on the second floor. The co-working space - called the Wheelhouse - will provide offices, a conference room, and open desks where local and summer residents who need a home base outside their home or corporate office can work and network in good company. A website will be launched soon and inquiries can be sent to info@wheelhouseneh.com. In the meantime, you can follow progress from the webcam at www.rtpartners.org/webcam.

ISLAND HOUSING TRUST SEEKS DONATIONS

Last summer, Island Housing Trust (IHT) successfully raised funds that enabled a local family to purchase a year-round home in the village of Northeast Harbor. Several SRA members donated to that effort to complete IHT's first Homeownership Assistance Program (HOAP) project in Northeast Harbor.

The importance of this "first" cannot be understated. This was a year-round property that was not only retained as such in the village, but also repaired and improved by its buyers. As the 2012 ULI Report stated, more affordable housing opportunities need to be created if the year-round villages are to remain viable. We must continue efforts to reverse the "hollowing out" from the communities of the year-round residents who comprise the local workforce. These folks represent the backbone in providing essential volunteer services to communities on the Island

This spring and summer, IHT is continuing to seek donations to help replenish funds in support of HOAP (pronounced "HOPE"). Through this program, IHT provides bridge grants to qualified working individuals and

families on Mount Desert Island to assist them in purchasing a year-round home.

Since 2012, IHT has completed 11 such projects and provided more than \$300,000 in grant funds to advance these unique homeownership opportunities. IHT has partnered with local lenders, realtors and sellers to make these residential purchases possible. In return for IHT's investment in their homes, the buyers agreed to aide by IHT's affordability covenants that regulate the resale of the property to keep it affordable to MDI's year-round working individuals and families in the future.

If you would like to donate to HOAP or learn more about the program, please contact Chris Spruce, Executive Director, by calling 244-8011 or by email at cspruce@islandhousingtrust.org, or visit our website at www.islandhousingtrust.org.

IHT's mission to is to preserve year-round community on MDI through initiatives that create homeownership opportunities for the Island's workforce.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~ SAVE THESE DATES

SUMMER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

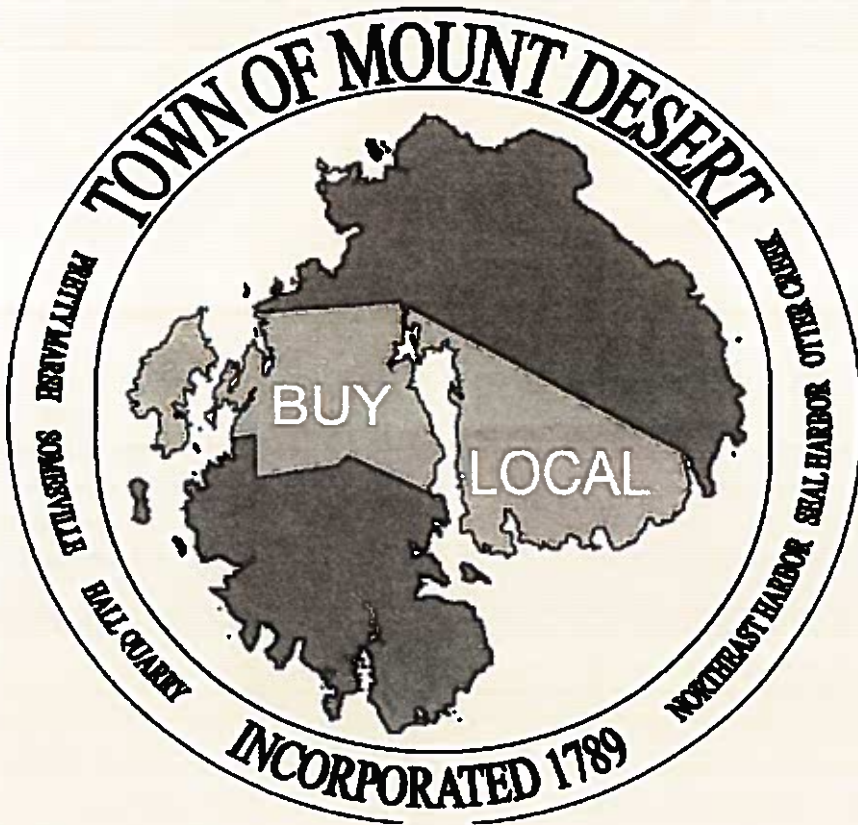
JULY 16, 2015

AUGUST 19, 2015

BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

4:30 to 6:00

NOTICES WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS



Town Office Contacts

www.mtidesert.org

Board of Selectmen

Thomas G. Richardson, Chairman – Otter Creek
Dennis Schubert – Seal Harbor
Matthew Hart – Northeast Harbor
John B. Macauley – Otter Creek
Martha Dudman – Northeast Harbor

Town Manager

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Address Service Requested